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The catalogues are separately paged, and the system of classification is a natural and convenient one, beginning with the history of zoölogy, "Miscellanea zoölogica," zoö-geography, faunæ, comparative anatomy, including embryology and morphology, as well as "Darwinismus." A separate catalogue is devoted to man, and nearly each large class of the animal kingdom has a separate catalogue. So with the vegetable kingdom; then follow the lists of works relating to palæontology, geology, mineralogy, etc. The catalogues are not of course designed to be complete bibliographies, but represent the enormous stock carried by the firm. At the same time not only is such a catalogue useful to libraries and bookbuyers, but it is valuable for reference by specialists.

BESSEL'S SMITH SOUND AND ITS EXPLORATION.—This is both a timely and authoritative essay, which the learned and experienced author has compiled from a long list of authors whose works are enumerated at the end of the brochure. As the compiler and editor of the voyage of the *Polaris* had only a few meager journals and a log-book at his disposal, Dr. Bessels has dwelt at length on that voyage, frequently using entire passages from his own narrative, the map being a photo-lithographic reproduction of that contained in his "Amerikanisch Nordpol Expedition."

At the close of the essay Dr. Bessels remarks that "the position of Greely and his party is not a dangerous one, although it is critical. He probably has provisions sufficient to last until the autumn of 1884, without taking the fourteen musk-oxen into consideration; these, according to his own statement, would provide him and his men with meat for seven months, even though issued as often as three times a week. Captain John Ross, not as well equipped as he is, spent four consecutive years in the Arctic regions, and still made good his retreat; but at the same time we must not forget that he wintered in lower latitudes, where the sun is not so long below the horizon as in Lady Franklin bay."

Finally he claims that we should not be disheartened by the failures in Arctic explorations of the last few years. "Arctic exploration, like warfare, has in the course of time fairly become a science, and the danger of now wintering in high latitudes is much less than it was twenty years ago." He adds that "our knowledge of the distribution of land and water in the vicinity of the Poles is almost as imperfect as it was at the time when Cook made his memorable voyage towards the South Pole, and when Forster, his scientific companion, tried to convince him that the vast ice-floes obstructing their passage were not of meteoric origin." The essay is reprinted from No. 30 of the Proceedings of the U. S. Naval Institute.